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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LIMA 005254

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR CA/FPP, VO, CA/EX, WHA/AND, DS
DEPT ALSO PASS TO KCC
MEXICO FOR DHS
DHS FOR CAO

E.O.E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: LIMA FRAUD PREVENTION UPDATES JULY-SEPTEMBER
2005

Summary

1. (U) During the July-September 2005 reporting period, Lima's Fraud Prevention Unit (FPU) worked closely with airline security personnel and the Peruvian National Police (PNP) in the detection and arrest of multiple document vendors and brokers of false U.S., Spanish, and Mexican travel documents. Training and maintaining contacts are a continuing priority and the Acting FPM and Visa Chief hosted a productive meeting with Consular personnel from neighboring Embassies to discuss areas of mutual concern and future joint training. Field investigations and site visits have proven to be effective tools in combating adoption fraud. The Peruvian Passport Authority improved its detection of fraud in the passport application process and unveiled a new and more secure Peruvian/Andean Community Passport. End Summary.

Combating Alien Smugglers and Visa Fixers: Detection and Arrests

2. (SBU) During the reporting period, the Anti-Fraud Unit of the Peruvian National Police (PNP) detected and dismantled several groups engaged in visa fixing and selling false documents in Lima. Several organizations now appear to be focusing their fraud efforts on obtaining visas to Mexico and Europe (principally Spain) as opposed to only the United States as in the past. On August 19, 2005, two subjects (Natali Isabel Calero Lopez, DPOB: 21May1967 Peru, and Rosario Guzman Paredes, DPOB: 04Aug1956 Peru), were arrested by the PNP after their involvement was discovered in a scheme to obtain Mexican entry visas for a group of 27 "artisans" who applied at the Mexican Embassy in Lima to attend a trade show in Mexico. After the arrests, the local Peruvian press and the PNP reported that the 27 were not artisans and intended to attempt a border crossing into the U.S. The visa fixers were charging 5,000 USD per person to facilitate the Mexican visas. FPU entered CLASS lookouts on the artisans and fixers.

3. (SBU) Another PNP investigation resulted in the arrest of Isabel Druett Janampa (DPOB: 30NOV1952 Peru), and Juan Martinez Huapaya (DPOB: 22SEP1946 Peru), who promised clients labor contracts and work visas to Spain, Mexico and the U.S. In a different case, the PNP arrested Juan Cancino Rodriguez Vera (age 32), who was charging customers 5,100 USD for washed or altered MRV's. Finally, visa fixer Victor Leonardo Rosas Avendano, (DPOB: 16NOV1969 Peru), aka: "Puertoriqueno" was arrested for promising to obtain work visas for clients for the sum of 7,000 USD. These visa fixers were all charged with fraud and prosecutions are pending.

4. (SBU) The PNP Anti-Fraud Unit also arrested a suspected passport forger at Lima's Jorge Chavez International Airport, (Retman Luis Rios Soria, DPOB: 16JAN1978 Peru) who was found in possession of three photo/page-subbed U.S. passports: numbers 037279179, 152851768 and 015297252. On September 22, 2005 the FPU coordinated with the TACA Airlines security manager and the PNP in the arrest of suspected child alien smuggler Flor de Maria Vera Falla, (DPOB: 24NOV1961 Peru). Vera Falla was apprehended while attempting to board a TACA flight to New York with three Ecuadorian children presenting U.S. passports. TACA contacted FPU for verification of the passports and FPU provided information from the PIERS records that the true passport owners should have known. The Ecuadorian children were taken into protective custody and charges were filed against the smuggler.

Adoption Fraud

5. (U) Using two unannounced site visits to the home of two IV applicants, the FPU uncovered an adoption fraud case and determined that the applicants could not be defined as orphans under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). An AMCIT maternal aunt had legally adopted the applicants in Peru and petitioned for the two teenagers as their adoptive

mother after the death of their biological mother. The IV unit discovered that the applicants were living with their biological father and that he was supporting them. The petitioner tried to conceal the fact that the applicants were living in the home of their father by indicating a different home address on their DS-230 form, and the applicants and members of their family misrepresented their living situation. When interviewed by the FPM and FPI, family members claimed that the biological father did not live in the home, that they had not seen him in six months, and that they had been abandoned and were supported solely by money sent by the aunt from the U.S. FPU site visits, however, confirmed that the applicants were indeed living a comfortable middle class lifestyle in a well-appointed and clean home, that the father was living in the home, had steady employment, was caring for them financially, and that they were attending private school. The applicants did not meet the FAM definition of an orphan and the petition was returned to DHS.

Training and Outreach

16. (U) In an effort to strengthen our contacts with other diplomatic missions in Lima, the Acting FPM and Acting Visa Chief hosted a working breakfast with the Consuls from the British, German, Canadian, and South African Embassies and the Australian Consulate to discuss fraud trends and areas of mutual concern. Contact information was exchanged, an e-mail list was created, and plans were made to participate in joint training on document detection, visa requirements, and interviewing techniques. The FPU is working on scheduling quarterly breakfast meetings with other Embassies including Spain, Italy, Mexico, and Guatemala. The improved communication and cooperation among the different Embassies is already bringing rewards with the detection of fraudulent documents and information sharing. FPU also conducted training for four newly arrived FSO's and conducted City Fraud Tours for each to familiarize them with the many different neighborhoods and economic areas of Lima.

Peruvian Passport Authority

17. (U) Peruvian Immigration reported that in 2004, they detected 180 cases of fraud in passport applications. Since January 2005, one hundred cases of fraud have been detected of applicants presenting fraudulent identity documents to obtain a Peruvian passport.

18. (U) The Government of Peru also unveiled a new Peruvian/Andean Community Passport with many improved security features geared towards combating photo and page substitution. Several cosmetic changes were made to distinguish the new passport from older styles with the addition of new colors and ultraviolet features included in the inner pages and cover and a new fluorescing stitching system. The most significant feature is a new laminate with the biographic information and digital photograph printed directly on it. The laminate is also designed to fall apart (disintegrate) and flake off if tampered with, making photo substitution attempts nearly impossible. Each laminate includes a unique tracking number similar to a visa foil viewable only under ultraviolet light.

19. (SBU) Comment: The new Peruvian/Andean Community Passport's security features, while not completely tamper-resistant, are a big improvement over earlier generation passports. Nevertheless, corruption at local municipalities and within the Peruvian immigration service provides the greatest opportunities for fraud. Would-be malafide travelers are able to obtain fake birth certificates and use those documents to obtain real passports with fraudulent identities. End comment.

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